

sure that he will continue to make significant contributions to the South Bay. I salute this community leader and wish him well in his retirement.

DOWNSIZING THE WEATHER SERVICE

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, Mark Twain once said "Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it." We are here today to do something about it.

Congressman KLUG and I are introducing a bill today to privatize those functions of the National Weather Service that duplicate private sector activities. I am also pleased that Congressman CHRYSLER has signed on as the first cosponsor.

This is simple, basic legislation. The bill eliminates the specialized functions of the Weather Service that are duplicative of private sector efforts. This legislation will codify language in the President's fiscal year 1996 budget request, and support of the administration is expected.

It is also the right approach to downsizing Government. Examine a program for merit: keep what you need, eliminate the rest. We are using a scalpel approach instead of a hatchet.

The bill also codifies the Weather Service Policy Statement of 1990, which will prohibit them from competing with the private sector. The Weather Service will continue their core functions: weather forecasting to the general public, and issuing warnings of severe weather and destructive natural events such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and tsunamis.

The following functions are ended under the bill: services in support of aviation, marine activities, agriculture, forestry, and other weather-sensitive activities. The approximate savings are listed below, in annual costs:

	(Millions)
Fruit frost/agricultural forecasting ...	\$2.3
Fire weather forecasting5
Dissemination of weather charts (Marine facsimile service)5
Marine weather forecasting	2.0
Regional climate centers	3.2
Aviation	4.1
Total	12.6

In addition, a number of the duties of the Data information services network could be privatized. Data services has an annual budget of \$36.6 million, another source of substantial potential savings.

Following are a few examples of why this is good legislation:

The Government provides frost forecasting for such giant conglomerates as Sunkist and Dole, who could easily pay for it themselves.

The airlines all have meteorologists on staff, who duplicate the services that the Weather Service provides to airlines and FAA.

The Weather Service sent a team of meteorologists to assist the Olympic Committee events coordinators to establish event schedules at taxpayer expense. There are a number of private U.S. weather companies that could have provided this service.

Marine weather forecasting is provided to private yacht clubs. The Government should not be in the business of subsidizing luxury boating.

Mr. Speaker, in order to make the large budget cuts we need to balance our budget, we must start with small steps. This legislation is a small but very significant step in the downsizing of the Federal Government, and I hope our colleagues will join Mr. KLUG, Mr. CHRYSLER, and me in supporting this bill.

SALUTING THE ST. THYAGARAJA MUSIC FESTIVAL

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, in just a few days, on April 15, 1995, the city of Cleveland, OH, will begin the 18th annual celebration of the St. Thyagaraja Music Festival. The 6-day event is being held at Cleveland State University in cooperation with the university's Indian cultural studies program. I take pride in welcoming the St. Thyagaraja Musical Festival to my congressional district. I am pleased to share with my colleagues and the Nation some important information regarding the festival.

The Thyagaraja Music Festival has a rich heritage that can be traced to the immigration of Asian Indians to the Greater Cleveland area in the 1960's. As Indians immigrated to Cleveland, they maintained their cultural and religious ties. The Thyagaraja Festival offers a musical homage to the saint-composer, Sri Thyagaraja. Thyagaraja, who lived during the same period as Beethoven, is one of the most skilled and best known Indian composers. The first Cleveland Thyagaraja Festival was held on April 8, 1978. A group of 75 individuals assembled in the basement of Faith United Church of Christ in Richmond Heights, to sign Thyagaraja's "Five Gems of Songs."

Mr. Speaker, over the years the Thyagaraja Festival has grown in size and scope. Festival organizers were able to foster a close working relationship with Dr. T. Temple Tuttle, who serves as director of the Indian cultural studies program at Cleveland State University. Under the leadership of this distinguished individual, for the past 16 years, the Thyagaraja Festival has been held at Cleveland State. Last year, more than 2,000 individuals attended the festival. They came from across the United States, and as far away as Canada, Europe, India, Hong Kong, and Singapore.

This year, the Cleveland Thyagaraja Festival will welcome 22 artists from India. In addition, the festival will include music competitions in Vocal, Veena, Violin, and Mridangam. Another highlight of the festival is the essay-writing competition based on the theme, "What The Cleveland Festival Means To Me."

Despite its great expansion, the Thyagaraja Festival has kept to its basic purposes: remembering the great composer, Thyagaraja, by the performance of his works; maintaining broad-based participation of amateur devotees; encouraging children to keep the Indian classical music traditions strong; providing inspirational professional concerts and delicious south Indian food without charge; and encour-

aging non-Indians to participate, thus increasing multi-cultural understanding.

Mr. Speaker, I take pride in recognizing the 18th annual St. Thyagaraja Music Festival. I also take this opportunity to commend Professor Tuttle and the Cleveland State University family for their strong support of this important effort. I am certain that the festival will be great success.

STATEMENT FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION ON AWARD OF THE PURPLE HEART

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to provide for the award of the Purple Heart to certain former prisoners of war. My distinguished colleagues, SONNY MONTGOMERY, DAN BURTON, JIM TRAFICANT, and MIKE BILIRAKIS join me in introducing this bill. It provides for award of the Purple Heart to persons held as prisoners of war before April 25, 1962, on the same basis as persons held as prisoners of war after that date.

Now, only former prisoners of war from the Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars are eligible to receive the Purple Heart for injuries received at the hands of the enemy while in captivity. This is because on April 25, 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed Executive Order 11016 to ensure that U.S. prisoners of war would be eligible to receive the Purple Heart for injuries received as prisoners of war, or if ill-treatment resulted in death.

Unfortunately, the Executive order has not been applied retroactively. Among other reasons, the Department of Defense felt that a retroactive award of the Purple Heart would contradict the decisions made by past military leaders who thought that injuries incurred while a prisoner of war during those actions were the result of war crimes, and not the result of legal acts of war. While I respect the prevailing reasons for these judgments at the time they were made, I believe it is of overriding importance to bestow this much-deserved recognition retroactively upon those individuals who suffered in so many ways as a result of their willingness to defend all that we hold sacred.

Differentiating among American prisoners of war on the basis of a date is a grave injustice to those men and women prisoners of war from World War I, World War II, and Korea. The inhumane treatment they often endured at the hands of the enemy ranged from physical and psychological torture to starvation and even execution.

Both the Bush and Clinton administrations have been urged on a bipartisan basis to rectify this injustice by executive action and nothing has been done. Now, on a bipartisan basis, we are introducing this legislation. The award of the Purple Heart to these former prisoners of war would serve as a reminder to Americans of all ages of the sacrifices made by its military men and women in service to their country.